

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 EB-03 COA-01 DLOS-03 PRS-01 PM-03

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R 292045Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7862

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0777

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, MILL, HA

SUBJ: GOH CRACKDOWN ON SMUGGLING CONTINUES

REFS: (A) PAUP A-33 OF 4/2/74; (B) PAUP 489

1. LT. GEN. JEAN-BAPTISTE HILAIRE, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE HAITIAN ARMED FORCES, TOLD EMBASSY DEFENSE ATTACHE APRIL 25 THAT GOH IS STILL ENGAGED IN SWEEPING CRACKDOWN ON SMUGGLING OF CONTRABAND INTO HAITI. ACCORDING TO HILAIRE, 14 PERSONS HAVE BEEN DETAINED TO DATE, INCLUDING INDUSTRIALIST SERGE BAZIN, A NOTORIOUS SMUGGLER AND FORMER ASSOCIATE OF LUCKNER CAMBRONNE. THREE OCEAN-GOING VESSELS HAVE BEEN SEIZED. OF THOSE ARRESTED, SEVERAL HAVE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED, AND HILAIRE INDICATED THAT MOST OF THE OTHER WOULD PROBABLY BE RELEASED SOON. ALL SMUGGLED GOODS HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED AND BROUGHT TO THE CASERNES DESSALINES. HILAIRE ALSO REPORTED THAT THE MILITARY HAS BEEN INTENSIVELY SEARCHING VESSELS AND PROPERTY OF SMUGGLERS FOR INDICATIONS OF NARCOTICS, BUT SO FAR WITHOUT RESULT.

2. HILAIRE REPORTED THAT AS CRACKDOWN ON SMUGGLING HAS SPREAD, GOH HAS FOUND LINKS CONNECTING MOST SMUGGLING NETWORKS WITH BRIG. GEN. BRETON CLAUDE, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE DESSALINES BATTALION ABRUPTLY RETIRED MARCH 20 (REF B). ACCORDING TO HILAIRE, CLAUDE  
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HAS BEEN FOUND SO EXTENSIVELY INVOLVED IN PROTECTION OF SMUGGLING

RACKETS THAT PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TAKEN TO CALLING HIM LE PARRAIN ("THE GODFATHER"). WHEN DEFENSE ATTACHE ASKED CURRENT STATUS OR WHEREABOUTS OF CLAUDE, HILAIRE REPLIED HE UNABLE TO SAY. (NOTE: EMBASSY OR EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE HEARD NOTHING OF CLAUDE'S STATUS SINCE HIS RETIREMENT MARCH 20. IMPLICATION OF HILAIRE'S REMARK WAS THAT CLAUDE MAY NOW BE UNDER SOME FORM OF HOUSE ARREST.) HILAIRE ADDED THAT AUTHORITIES ARE PLANNING TO EXTEND SWEEP TO THE PORT OF PORT AU PRINCE THIS WEEK, APPARENTLY SPARED UNTIL NOW WHILE INFORMATION GATHERED. (THE THREE VESSELS ALREADY SEIZED WERE ALL CAPTURED IN THE PORTS OF ST. MARC OR GONAIVES, AND THE PREFECTS OF THOSE TWO TOWNS SUMMARILY DISMISSED IN EARLY APRIL.)

3. ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL SOURCE IN THE GOH HAS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER IS PERSONALLY DIRECTING THE CRACKDOWN ON THE SMUGGLING RACKETS, ASSISTED BY HIS TOP SECURITY AND MILITARY AIDES, INCLUDING GEN. HILAIRE. OTHER SOURCES HAVE ALSO REPORTED THAT AMONG THOSE AFFECTED BY ANTI-SMUGGLING SWEEP ARE SEVERAL PROMINENT FORMER TTM'S. NO PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THESE EVENTS IN THE HAITIAN MEDIA, BUT PARTIAL REPORTS ARE WIDESPREAD IN LOCAL RUMOR MILL.

4. COMMENT: THE WIDENING CRACKDOWN ON ORGANIZED SMUGGLING IN HAITI, REPORTED EARLIER IN FRAGMENTARY FORM (REF A), TOGETHER WITH OUSTER OF MANY NOTORIOUSLY CORRUPT HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN GOH OFFICIALS IN AUGUST 1973 AND MARCH 1974, REPRESENT THE STRONGEST MOVES AGAINST ILLICIT OR CORRUPT ACTIVITIES IN HAITI IN MANY YEARS. PRESIDENT DUVALIER, CLOSELY SUPPORTED BY GEN. HILAIRE AND INTERIOR MINISTER PAUL BLANCHET, APPEARS DETERMINED TO CURB ABUSES IN HAITI AND AS FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS PUT IT, "MAKE WAR ON THE THIEVES", REGARDLESS OF ANY PAST DUVALIERIST CONNECTION THEY MAY HAVE HAD. THE MARCH 20 RETIREMENT OF GEN. BRETON CLAUDE, THE MAIN FORMER "PROTECTOR" OF SMUGGLING IN HAITI, AND APPOINTMENT OF PAUL BLANCHET AS INTERIOR MINISTER SOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN KEY MOVES IN CLEARING THE WAY FOR "REFORM" INITIATIVES DUVALIER REPORTEDLY HAD IN MIND FOR SOME TIME. THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT, GEN. HILAIRE, BLANCHET, AND OTHER KEY PRESIDENTIAL ADVISERS ARE CLOSELY COOPERATING ON ANTI-SMUGGLING CRACKDOWN IS ENCOURAGING SIGN OF HIGH LEVEL AGREEMENT ON BROAD REFORMIST THRUST OF CURRENT POLICY, WHICH TO BE CARRIED FORWARD WILL ENTAIL MANY

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ADDITIONAL DECISIONS PAINFUL FOR SOME DUVALIERIST LOYALISTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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